

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/709,889 Confirmation No. 3888
Applicant : Manabu Hashikura, et al.
Filed : June 3, 2004
T.C./A.U. : 2818
Examiner : Nguyen, Dao H.
Docket No. : 39.043-AG
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Accompanying Request for Continued Examination
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

Sir:

In response to the Office action, made final and mailed on February 23, 2006 in the above-identified patent application, Applicants have elected to file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

As a submission required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(a) and defined in § 1.114(c), the following amendment accompanies the present RCE. (The RCE and this amendment are being filed along with a petition for a two-month extension of time, on July 24, 2006, the first business day following the *Sunday*, July 23, 2006 date that is five calendar months from the mailing date of the Office action, and are therefore timely filed.)

AMENDMENT Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.